

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. The claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as containing three distinct species. Applicant elects Species I, shown in FIG. 20A, directed toward the fastening element comprising staples, without traverse. It is believed that claims 1-19 and 26-29 read on Species I. Claims 20-26 have been canceled. Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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